

RIVER PLAN UPDATE

UPPER KLAMATH RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN EIS

May 2002



PURPOSE FOR THIS UPDATE:

- Inform you of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) process/progress on this river plan since initial scoping.
- Reference interim products available on the web site.
- Inform you of the upcoming release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
- Update our project mailing list.

BACKGROUND:

The Klamath Falls Resource Area has initiated the planning process for the Upper Klamath River Management Plan (River Plan). This Plan will direct management on federal lands along the 15-mile stretch of the Klamath River in Oregon and 5 miles in the Redding Resource Area in California (see attached map). Because of the distance from Redding and proximity to Klamath Falls, the Klamath Falls Resource Area manages the recreation use on BLM lands in California. The River Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being

prepared by Klamath Falls Resource Area staff, with input from the Redding staff. A decision on the resulting river management plan will amend both Klamath Falls Resource Area and Redding Resource Management Plans.

The state of Oregon designated an 11-mile segment of the Klamath River as a State Scenic Waterway in 1988. Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department is a partner in the planning effort due to that designation. Chapter 3 of the Plan will include standards and guidelines for State Scenic Waterway management.

The same 11-mile section of the Klamath River within Oregon was designated as a Wild and Scenic River with the classification of "Scenic", under Section 2 (a) (ii) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (W&SR Act). This designation was made by the Secretary of Interior, at the request of Oregon's Governor in 1994. The W&SR Act requires that a management plan be developed to protect and enhance the Outstandingly Remarkable Values

(Background Continued)

for which the river was designated. These values are scenic, recreation, wildlife, fish, Prehistoric, historic and Native American Traditional Use. This plan addresses public issues related to management of these values. The 1995 Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan also designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern surrounding this river section. This river plan would have objectives to maintain, protect and restore relevant and important values.

In California, the 5-mile segment of the Klamath River within the planning area was determined to be eligible for inclusion as a scenic river under the Wild and Scenic River Act, based on a 1990 Final Eligibility and Suitability Report. There has been no designation for this section, however, per the terms of the W&SR Act, the area is under protected management that would not preclude future designation. This particular stretch is the only eligible segment of the 280-mile long Klamath River for which a decision has not yet been made.

The planning area also includes the section of river between John C. Boyle dam and John C. Boyle powerhouse, which are hydroelectric generation facilities owned and operated by PacifiCorp. This plan will include management direction for this four-mile section of river. The PacifiCorp facilities were licensed for a 50-year term in 1956. The relicensing process for these facilities (and others downriver) has begun with the process being managed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Under the Federal Power Act, BLM has mandatory conditioning authority for any new license issued for these two facilities. Therefore, when the Klamath River Management Plan is completed, it will form the basis for BLM's conditions, (protection, mitigation and enhancement measures) for the new license.

PROJECT SCOPING AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

Early in the analysis process, based on the "National Environmental Policy Act" (NEPA), the analysis team identifies (1) the issues to be addressed, (2) significant issues to be used in the formulation of alternatives, (3) alternative actions and (4) the depth and scope of the analysis. Following publication of a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS, two public meetings were held; in Yreka, California, and Klamath Falls, Oregon. These meetings were designed to help the BLM obtain public comments on issues to be addressed to help determine the scope of the environmental analysis to be completed.

Identification of Issues - With the close of the initial scoping comment period on January 31, 2001, 36 written responses (including comments documented at two scoping meetings) had been received. Individual comments within these letters were consolidated into 57 different issue statements addressing 15 topic areas. Additional comments and issues have been obtained throughout the scoping process. Significant issues include:

- W&SR and ACEC Values
- Scenic Quality
- Recreation Activities and Facilities
- Roads And Access
- Cultural Resources - Prehistoric Sites, Traditional Uses, Historic Sites
- Vegetation And Biological Diversity
- Watershed Values
- Wildlife And Fisheries
- Fire And Fuels
- Air Quality
- Land Tenure/Ownership (esp. PacifiCorp)
- Socio-Economics
- PacifiCorp's Power Generating Facilities
- Grazing

ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED:

Various management actions to address scoping issues were identified and grouped based on the theme of each particular alternative. Implementation of any alternative would help achieve project goals, but to varying levels and over varying timelines.

Alternative 1 - Existing Management

This alternative is considered the “no action” alternative because it would not change any direction that is currently in the Klamath Falls or the Redding resource management plans. Management would continue to follow direction in the existing plans. Values “shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and . . . they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations” (section 1[b], “The Wild and Scenic River Act”. The goal of the alternative would be to maintain the existing wild and scenic river (scenic classification) outstandingly remarkable values and ACEC values.

Alternative 2 - Improvement of Resources and Opportunities

This alternative was developed in response to direction in the “Wild and Scenic Rivers Act” to maintain and enhance scenic river outstandingly remarkable values. “Each component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System shall be administered in such a manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included, without . . . limiting other uses . . .”. The goal of this alternative therefore, would be to not just maintain, but enhance where possible, the outstandingly remarkable values, while resolving resource conflicts that could occur.

Alternative 3 - Natural Resource Enhancement and Restoration

Some public scoping comments suggested that the BLM should manage the Klamath River Canyon in a more natural condition. The goal of this alternative is to maintain and enhance all outstandingly remarkable values, but to place emphasis on enhancement and restoration of values related to natural resources. Proposed actions should achieve this goal but should not create resource management conflicts with other outstandingly remarkable values.

Alternative 4 - Expand Human Use Opportunities

Numerous public scoping comments identified a need for an alternative with greater recreation emphasis. The goal of this alternative is to maintain and enhance all outstandingly remarkable values, but to place emphasis implementing management actions that contribute to human use of the river corridor. This alternative should emphasize utilizing resources for recreation, including interpreting wildlife and cultural resources, but should not create significant conflicts with managing other values.

CURRENT STATUS:

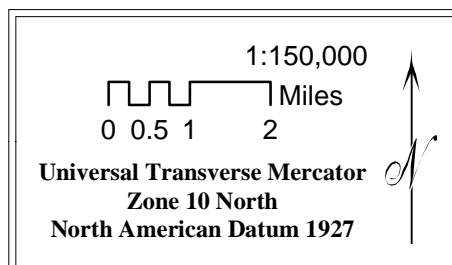
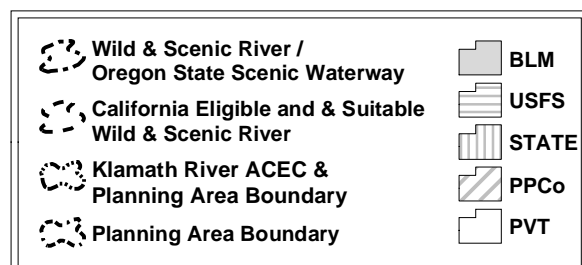
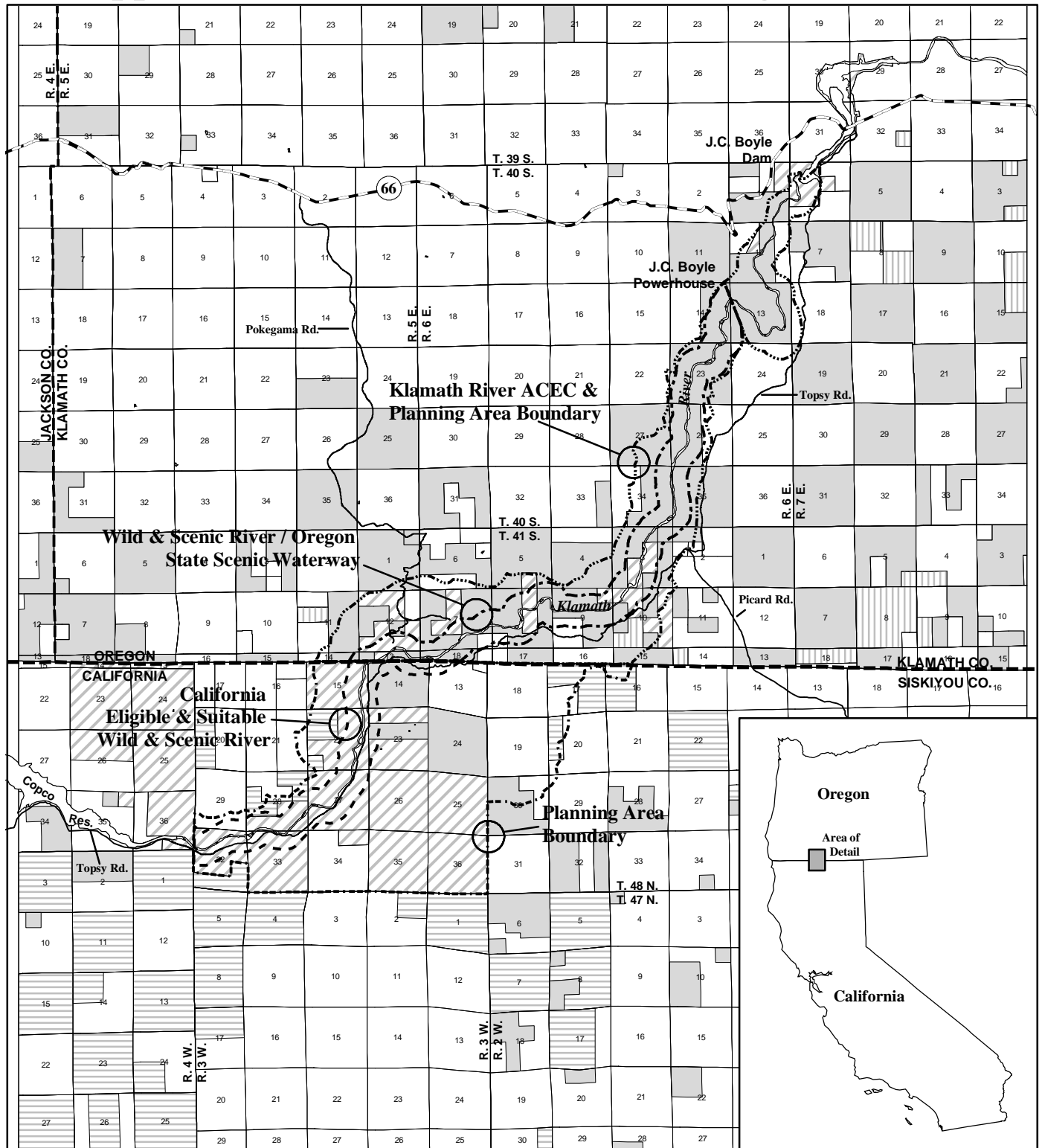
The draft Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared to analyze alternative management actions for the river corridor. It is expected that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be released in summer 2002. Public meetings will be held during the review period. In anticipation of the release of the DEIS, we are also updating our mailing list. Please refer to another section of this *Update* for information on receiving the DEIS and helping to update our mailing list.

For more information you may contact:

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Or find additional documents on our web site: <http://www.or.blm.gov/Lakeview/kfra/index.htm>

Upper Klamath Wild & Scenic River Mgt. Plan EIS



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Michael C. Limb - GIS Coordinator
 Prepared 5/2/02
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WE NEED YOUR RESPONSE

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Upper Klamath River Management Plan will be available for your review in summer 2002. The document will be approximately 500 pages in length. A summary will be about 50 pages. Each will be available for your review in printed or electronic form. We can mail you either the printed copy or a CD-ROM for you to use on a computer. The document will also be on our web site:
<http://www.or.blm.gov/Lakeview/kfra/index.htm>

As we prepare to mail out the document, we need to update our mailing list. Therefore, we need you to return this sheet with the appropriate block marked. After filling in the correct block, just fold the page in half so that the "To" address for the BLM is showing (reverse fold from how it was delivered to you), tape the two sides together, place enough postage for letter delivery, and return to us*.

***Note: Please let us know of your preference by June 1, 2002,
or your name will be removed from our mailing list.**

- ☐ Please remove me from the mailing list.
- ☐ Keep me on the mailing list but do not send an EIS (I can view it on web site)
- ☐ Keep me on the mailing list and send me only a summary of the EIS
- ☐ Keep me on the mailing list and send a full printed version of the EIS
- ☐ Keep me on the mailing list and send a CD-ROM version of the EIS

From: _____

To: **Bureau of Land Management
Klamath Falls Resource Area
2795 Anderson Ave., Bld. 25
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603**

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COORDINATION EFFORTS FOR THE UPPER KLAMATH RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Upper Klamath River Management Plan process has included a significant amount of coordination in addition to general public scoping. The process involves integration of two key committees. The Upper Basin subcommittee of the Klamath Provincial Advisory Committee has been advising the BLM during the planning process, especially on issues relevant to the “Northwest Forest Plan”. The subcommittee, which includes a Klamath County Commissioner and a Siskiyou County Supervisor, has met numerous times to provide input to the BLM.

An “Interagency Advisory Committee” of Federal, and State agencies includes the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, California Department of Fish and Game, and California Resources Agency. Three meetings have been held to seek comments and feedback from agency representatives.

Consultation meetings have been held with the Klamath, Hupa, Yurok, and Karuk Tribes, and Shasta Nation members to inform them about the river plan. There have also been field trips with Klamath and Shasta Tribal members to review sensitive cultural sites within the planning area.

In addition to the official public scoping meetings, many presentations have been made to interested groups and organizations. These include:

- Klamath Audubon Society
- Upper Klamath Working Group
- Klamath Watershed Council
- Klamath Basin Sunrise Rotary
- Klamath-Lake-Modoc-Siskiyou Counties Recreation Working Group
- California Legislative Staff (Feinstein/Herger)
- Oregon Legislative Staff (Walden/Wyden/Smith)
- Copco, CA Community Meeting
- Siskiyou County Supervisors
- Klamath County Commissioners
- Boise Cascade, US Timberlands, Fruit Growers